



Washington State
Transportation Commission



TRANSPORTATION 101

Moving People and Goods



Who is the Washington State Transportation Commission?

An independent, seven-member body of citizens appointed by the Governor for six-year terms – three from east of the mountains and four from the west. The WSDOT Secretary and the Governor's Office serve as non-voting members.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Proposes transportation policy and finance recommendations** to the Governor and Legislature.
- Serves as the **State Tolling Authority**, adopting state highway and bridge tolls, and setting fares for Washington State Ferries.
- Develops and issues a comprehensive, balanced **20-year statewide transportation plan**.
- **Conducts a statewide outreach program** to gather public input into state transportation policy; to promote transportation education; and to gain understanding of local and regional transportation needs and challenges.
- Provides a public forum for transportation policy development.



What is the statewide transportation system?

- 18,046 miles of city streets.
- 39,180 miles of county roads and seven county ferries.
- Over 7,000 miles of state highways and 23 ferries.
- 465 miles of Columbia-Snake River barge transport.
- Reservation roads, DNR and Forest Service roads.
- 32 transit agencies.
- 75 port districts in 33 of 39 counties.
- Sidewalks and bike paths.
- Over 7.5 million registered passenger vehicles, trucks and motorcycles.
- Amtrak, Sounder, Link light rail, streetcars.
- Freight trains and trucking companies.
- Airlines and maritime shipping lines.
- Bicycles.



The Past and Present

Federal

- Federal gas tax money built 90% of the Interstate System.
- Congress last increased the gas tax in 1993.

Washington State

- Tacoma Narrows Bridge, both Lake Washington floating bridges, and the I-5 bridges between Vancouver and Portland, were all toll bridges.
- State gas tax provides about 40% of WSDOT budget.
- Puget Sound ferries were privately owned and operated until the state bought 16 vessels and 20 terminals in 1951.



Local

- Sales tax is the primary revenue source for city streets and most transit systems.
- Property tax is the primary revenue source for county roads.
- 24% of counties' transportation revenue and 13% of cities' comes from the state.

The Present: Big Picture

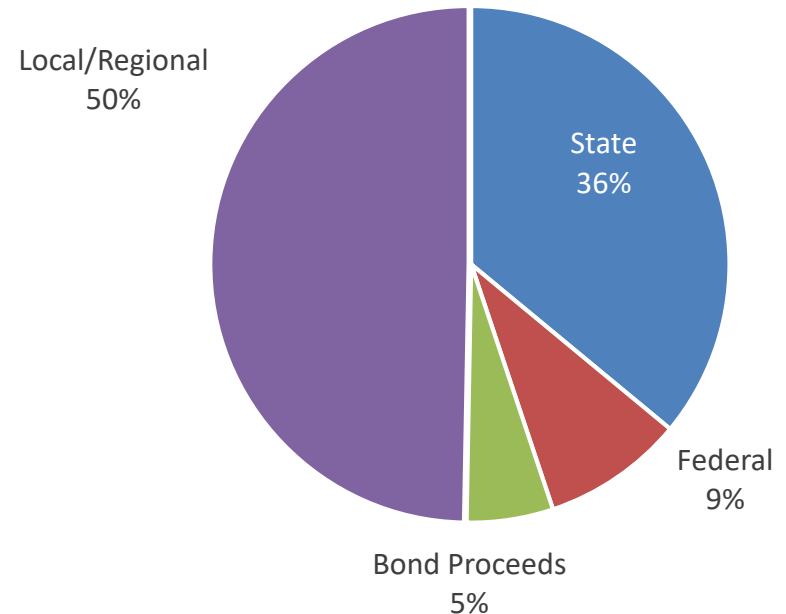
Federal

- Since 2008, Congress has transferred over \$143 billion from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund and Mass Transit Fund.

State

- The \$9.48 billion transportation budget for 2017 – 19 is only 9.0% of the total state budget.

Statewide Transportation Revenue
2017-2019 Biennium (est.)



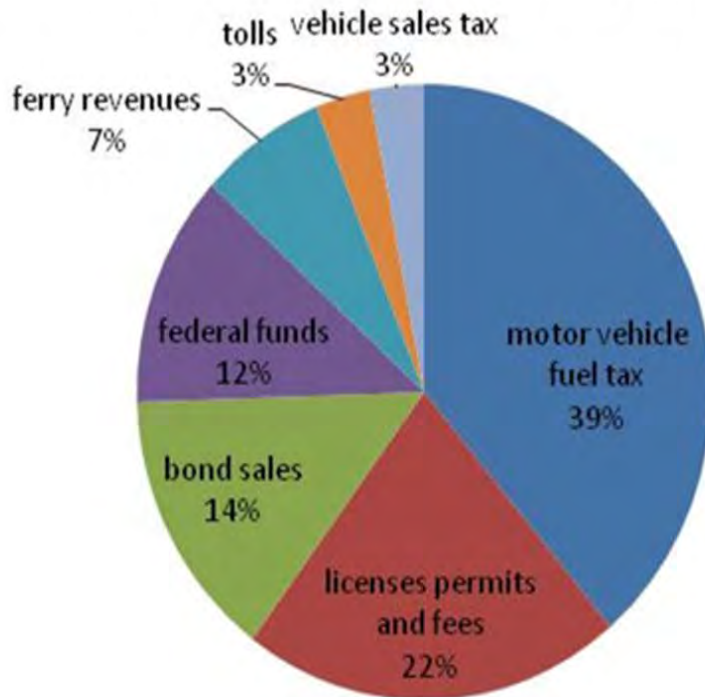
2017 – 19 WA Transportation Budget (est. in thousands)

Agency/Purpose	Appropriation	% of Total Appropriation
WSDOT	\$ 6,458,699	68%
Bond Payments	\$ 1,621,009	17%
State Patrol and Licensing	\$ 884,569	9%
TIB/CRAB/FMSIB	\$ 463,956	5%
All other transportation agencies	\$ 51,380	0.5%
Total	\$ 9,479,613	100%

Note: WA State's 2015-2017 Biennium is from July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019

The Present: What are the Sources of State Transportation Revenue?

Washington State Transportation 16-Year Funding Sources



Federal gas tax = 18.4¢ per gallon.

State gas tax = 49.4¢/gallon.

Ferry fares will raise \$381 million in 2017 – 2019.

Toll revenue pays for debt, maintenance, and operations for each tolled facility.

State Gas Tax Breakdown

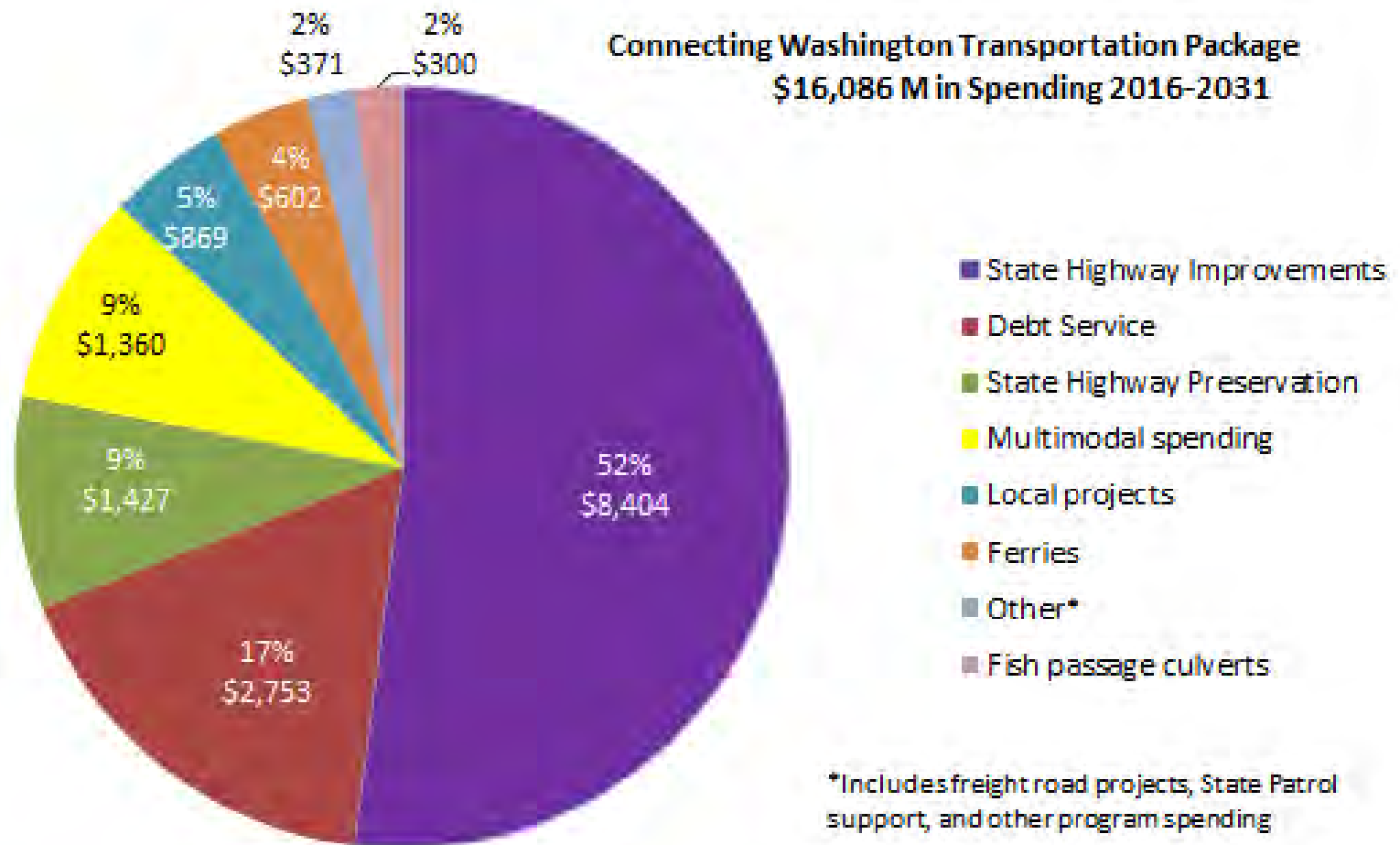
Where Does the State Fuel Tax Go?

**49.4¢ PER-GALLON •
STATE FUEL TAX •**



*Of the 9.5 cents, 8.5 cents is used by the state for highway projects, 1 cent goes to cities and counties for street and road improvements

Revenue Uses – 2015 Connecting Washington Package



The Present: Local Transportation Revenue

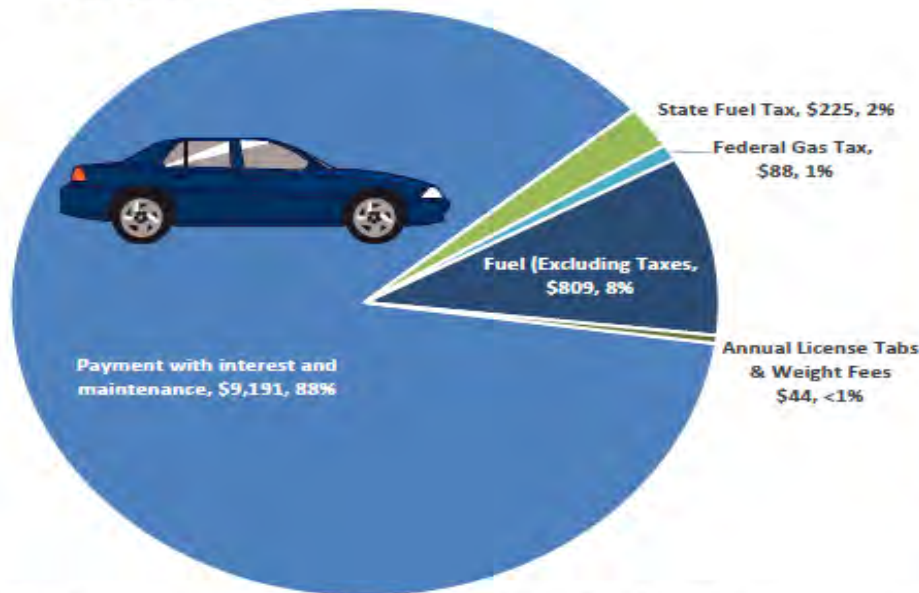
- 79% of cities' transportation funding and about 65% of counties' transportation funding is generated locally. For cities it is primarily from a sales tax; for counties most is from the county road share of the property tax. Over 80 cities are collecting revenue from a Transportation Benefit District.
- Federal funds contribute 8% to cities' and counties' transportation revenue.
- 24% of counties' transportation revenue and 13% of cities' comes from the state:
 - 2.96¢ of state gas tax is distributed to cities
 - 4.93¢ of state gas tax is distributed to counties
 - 4.07¢ of state gas tax is distributed as grants to local governments
- Transit revenue typically comes from:
 - Locally-approved sales tax
 - Fare box receipts
 - Federal and state grants
- Port revenue comes from user fees, leases, property tax and grants.



The Present: Personal Spending

What does it typically cost per year to travel by car and where does the money go?

2016 average cost to own a typical passenger car in Washington State:
\$10,357 per year



*Includes car payment, insurance, and maintenance. Sources: AAA, Your Driving Costs 2016 and Bankrate.com.

**Washington State average cost for regular gasoline \$2.36 per gallon less state and federal taxes. Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration Jan-June 2016.

***Washington State's excise tax was 44.5¢ from January 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016 and 49.4¢ beginning August 1, 2016.

Numbers may not add due to rounding

Annual transportation tax and fees and costs
for a car driven 12,000 miles per year

Expenditures are based on the following:

Cost of Ownership*	\$9,191
Cost for Fuel (excluding taxes)**	\$809
Washington State Fuel Tax ***	\$225
Federal Fuel Tax (18.4¢ per gallon)	\$88
Annual License Tab & Weight Fees	\$44

Example of a typical vehicle:

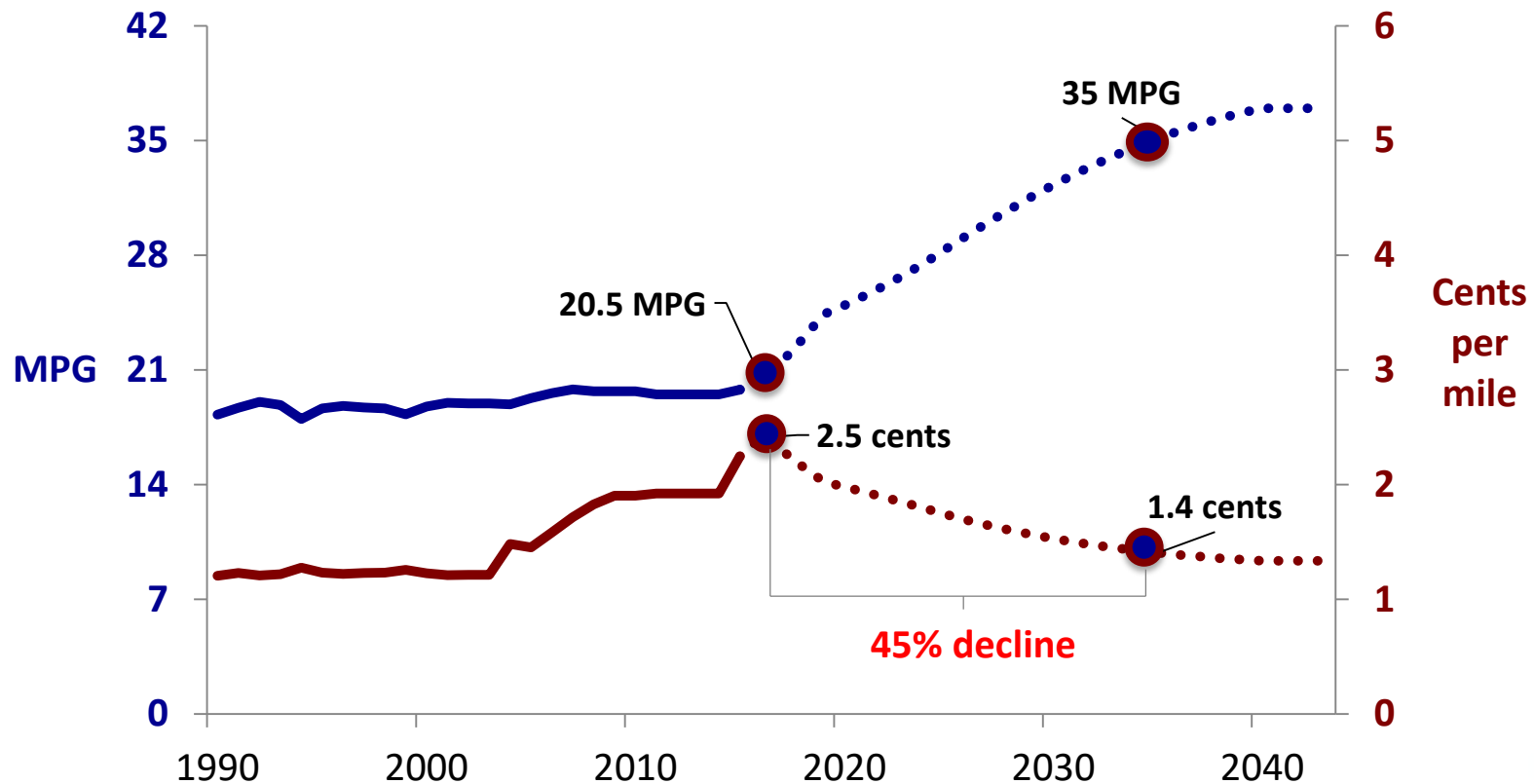
Average annual miles	12,000
Miles per gallon	25
Total gallons used per year	480

\$20.35 of the license tab fee goes to the State Patrol and approximately 25% of the gas tax goes to local governments.

Local option taxes for local transportation projects may exist over and above those listed.

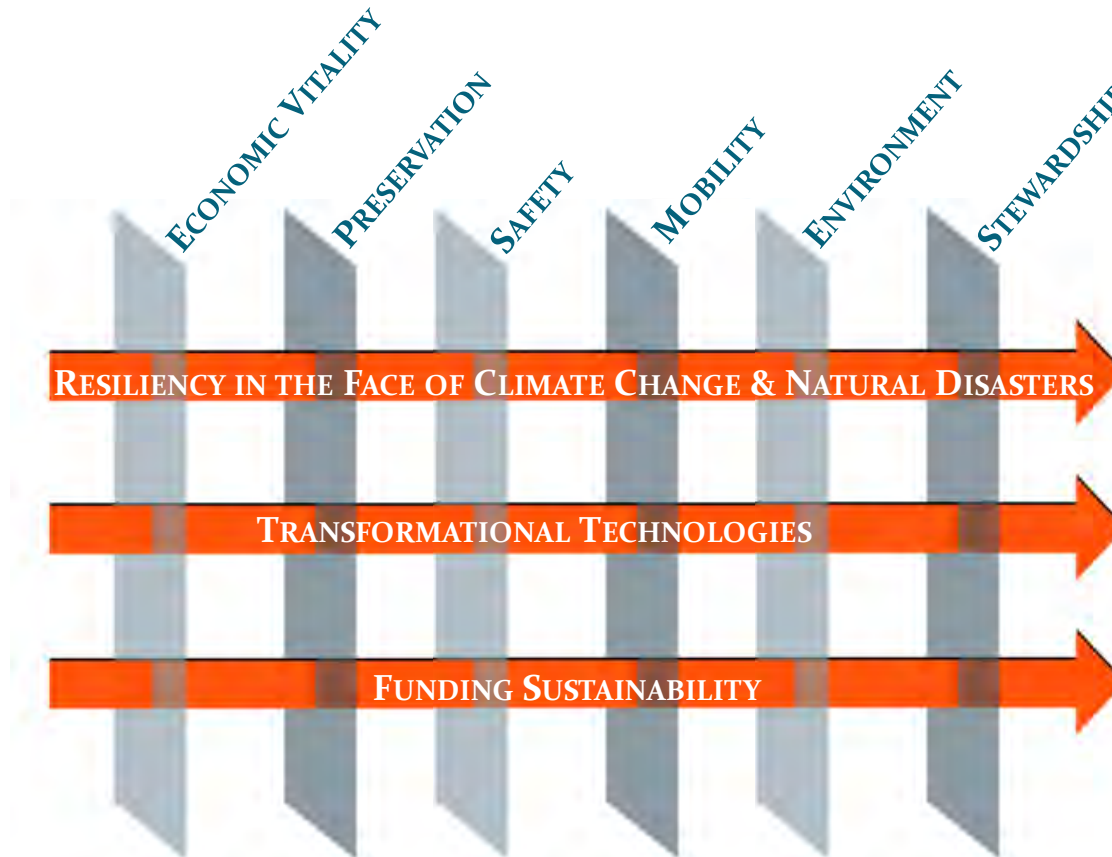
Improving Vehicle MPG Erodes Gas Tax Revenues

Conservative forecasts: Washington's vehicles will reach 35 MPG by 2035 – a potential 45% reduction in gas tax revenue per mile driven.



Blueprint for the Future: The Washington Transportation Plan

Develop and update every four years ... a comprehensive and balanced statewide transportation plan consistent with the state's growth management goals and based on the transportation policy goals



**CROSS-CUTTING
TOPICS WTP 2040
AND BEYOND**

WTP 2035 Key Messages

- Reliable, efficient freight movement is critical for jobs, balance of trade, and economic competitiveness.
- There is an important state role in planning and delivering multimodal transportation services and infrastructure, including public transportation:
 - key corridors
 - connecting communities
 - special needs transportation
- Secure, sustainable funding is needed to ensure the long-term preservation of existing infrastructure and to meet growing demand in many regions of the state.



2017 Reflections and Recommendations

Each year, the Commission proposes policies to improve the state transportation system.

Preservation

- Dedicate sustainable funding to preservation and maintenance.
- Phase out studded tires.

Transportation Finance

- Expand the funding toolbox for cities and counties.
- Expand opportunities for public-private partnerships.

Best Practices

- Transportation access and equity
- Increase funding for special needs transportation
- Improve community health and public health with transportation investments.



2017 Reflections and Recommendations

Infrastructure Needs

- Improve connections within and between cities.
- Increase preparations for seismic events, storms, and climate impacts.
- Better utilize waterways.
- Efficiently grow passenger rail service.

Improved Planning and Coordination

- Develop a long-term tolling policy plan.
- Ensure adequate transportation networks for new development
- Maintain commercial air service in rural Washington

Technology

- Plan and prepare for technological and behavioral change in the future, from autonomous (self-driving) vehicles to Mobility as a Service.



The Importance of Tolling and Fares

Toll revenue pays for debt, maintenance, and operations for each tolled facility. Tolling generated over \$193 million in FY 2017.

- Build a project: \$735 million Tacoma Narrows Bridge
- Manage traffic: I-405 Express Toll Lanes
- Build a project and manage traffic: SR 520 Bridge

Newest toll facilities:

- I-405 Express Toll Lanes opened September 2015.
- AWW Replacement Tunnel opening Fall 2018.

Ferry Fares will raise \$381 million in 2017 – 2019, covering about 75% of WSF operating costs.



The Future: More Tolling Likely

Tolling generated over \$193 million in FY 2017.

- Build a project.
- Manage traffic.
- Build a project and manage traffic.

Newest toll facility:

- I-405 Express Toll Lanes opened September 27, 2015.

Future tolling authorized:

- SR 99 Downtown Seattle Tunnel
- I-405 Express Toll Lanes from Bellevue to Renton
- SR 167 to Port of Tacoma and SR 509 to I-5



The Future: Connected Automated Transportation

- June 7, 2017 Executive Order 17-02 formed Governor's AV Work Group
- Self-certification to Department of Licensing for AV testing
- Chapter 180, Laws of 2018: Transportation Commission facilitated AV Work Group
- WSDOT demonstration projects
- University research



The Road Usage Charge



- A road usage charge is a per mile charge drivers would pay for the use of the road system, rather than paying by the gallon of gas.
- A viable future funding source in need of further exploration.
- <https://waroadusagecharge.org/>



Road Usage Charge Assessment

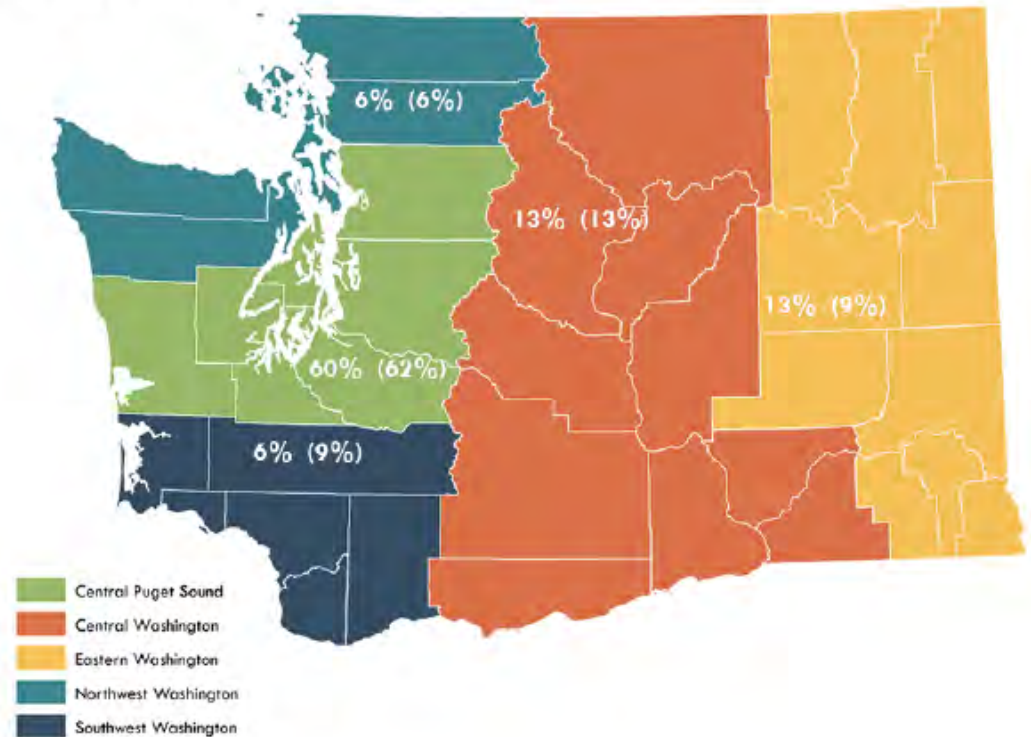
A deliberate and methodical evaluation:

- 2012:** Road usage charging is feasible; many policy and fiscal issues to be resolved.
- 2013:** The business case for road usage charging is made; a policy framework developed.
- 2014:** Transportation Commission recommends a demonstration project to test road usage charging options, operations, and customer interaction.
State Treasurer notes caution around elimination of the gas tax and the role a road usage charge could play in our state financing.
- 2015:** Legislature directs continued evaluation and review of work in other states.
Oregon implements a voluntary road usage charge program.
- 2016:** Washington gets state and federal funding to prepare for a demonstration project starting in 2018.
- 2017:** California concludes a 9-month pilot program with 5000 vehicles.
Washington receives \$8.5 million federal funding for a pilot project involving vehicles.

2,000 Participants from Around the State in a Road Usage Charge Pilot Program

- 2,000 participants were selected from a pool of nearly 5,000 from around the state to achieve geographic and demographic balance.
- The Pilot is testing the technology against out-of-state travel between Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, and travel between Washington and British Columbia.

Percent Enrolled (Share of State Population)



Operational Concepts Assessed



SELECT

- Pre-select miles based on how much you expect to drive in 3 months
- Works with all vehicles
- Submit a mileage report using a mobile phone, or in person at select vehicle licensing offices
- Does not use navigational GPS

MILEAGE PERMIT

Details+



SELECT

- Plug-in device automatically reports mileage
- Works with all vehicles 1996 or newer
- No smartphone required
- Does not use navigational GPS

PLUG-IN DEVICE

Details+



SELECT

- Report miles monthly or quarterly using the smartphone app
- Works with all vehicles
- Smartphone required
- Navigational GPS can be turned on/off

SMARTPHONE APP

Details+

1 2 3 4 5

SELECT

- Submit a photo of odometer monthly or quarterly using mobile phone, or in person at select vehicle licensing offices
- Works with all vehicles
- Does not use navigational GPS

ODOMETER READINGS

Details+



SELECT

- Plug-in device automatically reports mileage and deducts out-of-state miles
- Works with all vehicles 1996 or newer
- Smartphone required
- Navigational GPS is required

PLUG-IN DEVICE WITH GPS

Details+



**To stay looped in on the
project's progress, sign up
for the interested persons
list at:**

www.waroadusagecharge.org

Questions? info@waroadusagecharge.org

Want to talk? (833) WASH-RUC

WA RUC

Thank you!
wstc.wa.gov
transc@wstc.wa.gov

